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ORIGINAL

REVIEW OF TWO RESCISSIONS AND A DEFERRAL

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

HIS REVIEW OF TWO PROPOSED RESCISSIONS, AND A REVISION OF ONE DEFERRAL, CONTAINED IN THE MESSAGE OF JULY 16, 1982 (HOUSE DOCUMENT 97-210), PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 1012(a) AND 1013(a) OF PUBLIC LAW 93-344

AUGUST 20 (legislative day, AUGUST 19), 1982.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed

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COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON D.C. 20548

B-205053

August 20, 1982

The Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On July 16, 1982, the President's fifteenth special message for fiscal year 1982 was transmitted to Congress pursuant to the Impoundment Control Act of 1974. This special message proposed two rescissions of budget authority totalling $63.6 million and a revision to one deferral previously reported increasing the amount deferred by $61.1 million. Our report follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

R82-28 Geological Survey
Exploration of national petroleum reserve in Alaska
14X0805

According to budget officers in the U.S. Geological Survey, sufficient funds have been apportioned to fulfill existing contracts with the Huskey Oil Company for continued exploration of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska. The funds proposed for rescission are not needed to meet existing contractual obligations.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

R82-29 Employment and Training Administration
Employment and training assistance
161/20174
1620174

The funds proposed for rescission originally were the subject of deferral messages D82-229 (reported in the President's eighth special message, dated February 8, 1982) and D82-229A (reported in the President's thirteenth special message, dated June 2, 1982). The special message accompanying D82-229 stated that no plans had been developed for using the $88.5 million deferred in the original account because the

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funds were unanticipated carryover balances. The special message also stated that approximately $41.4 million of the deferred funds were proposed for transfer to other accounts and that disposition of the remaining $47.1 million deferred was under review. As noted in our report on D82-229A, B-205053, June 30, 1982, the amount under review was increased to $47.4 million as a result of a decrease in the amount proposed for transfer out of the deferred funds to defray pay costs. The President now proposes rescission of the $47.4 million on the ground that no compelling operational or program needs exist for the funds.

As indicated in our report on D82-229A, the Department of Labor had requested release of the $47.4 million for training and related assistance for displaced workers and for CETA audits. OMB denied that request, stating that (1) the Labor Department already had made available $25 million for training and relocation for recipients of trade adjustment assistance benefits, which was almost twice the amount made available for that purpose in any prior year, and (2) sufficient resources had been made available to carry out all necessary CETA audits.

Based on the current legislative calendar, the 45-day period of continuous session during which the funds proposed for rescission may be withheld pending congressional consideration of a rescission bill will end on September 19, 1982.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

D82-21B Federal Aviation Administration
Facilities and equipment (airport and airway trust fund)

We have reviewed the fifteenth special message. The proposed deferral is in accordance with existing authority. We have not identified any further information which would be useful to Congress in its consideration of the President's proposals.

Sincerely yours,

Milton J. Socolar

Acting Comptroller General
of the United States

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